

CLASS OF 1814

JOHN D. LAWYER

"The first dominie to have services in the English language aswell, was Rev. John D. Lawyer, who was here from 1827 to 1838."

The church referred to above is the Stone Arabia Lutheran church.

Story of Old Fort Plain  
Nelson Greene  
1915

p. 167

Rev. JOHN D. LAWYER, A.M., 1814, of Schoharrie, was a member of the Adelpic Society.  
Adelpic Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1865)



JOHN DEPEYSTER LAWYER, A. M.; was born in the town and county of Schoharie, October 26th, 1796. He was the first native-born citizen who graduated at the "Old Union" from Schoharie county. Eight have graduated since that period. He was licensed as an Attorney at Law at the August term in the city of Albany in 1817.-- He was the youngest of the law class of about fifty. He was the first clerk elected for his native county under the Constitution of 1821. He was ordained for the ministry of Reconciliation, in the Lutheran church in Albany, in September, 1827. He is a minister at large. His residence and, P. O. address, Coeymans, Albany Co. N. Y.

From: The Evening Star July 29, 1864



1814.

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Copied from "The Evening Star" of July 29, 1864 by W. N. P. D.



CLASS OF 1814

JOHN D. LAWYER

Was called from Rensselaer Co., to the pastorate of Minden, Newville and Danube, in 1838, residing in Minden. He retained charge of this district for only one year, preaching afterward at Hartwick, Otsego Co., and Argusville, Schoharie Co. He was a man of great ability, but of erratic character. He had left to bar for the pulpit and resigned the presidency of the Hartwick Synod to join the new organization. In 1848, questions were raised toward the identity of his views with those of the denomination as formulated by the Synod, which had embodied in its constitution, "Articles of Faith," making no reference by name to the symbolical books of the church. After some correspondence relative to an investigation of the matter, he took the irregular course of withdrawing from the Synod, abandoning the clerical, and returning to the legal profession. In this course he failed to do justice to his talents, and his after life bitterly disappointed his friends.

History of Herkimer Co. p. 339



CLASS OF 1814.

JOHN D. LAWYER.

At Coeymans, Albany Co., N. Y., March 31 ult., Rev. John D. Lawyer, aged about 68 years, a native and a long resident of Schoharie Co.

Rev. Mr. Lawyer was the brother of Mrs. Hamilton, formerly of this village, and was a most worthy and highly esteemed gentleman. He first studied law, and practiced for some time in partnership with General Lawyer but subsequently abandoned that profession and engaged in the ministry. His body will be brought to Schoharie for final interment.

The Schoharie Union  
May 18, 1865.



CLASS OF 1814

JOHN D. LAWYER

The first minister to preach in the English language, who commenced his labors in 1827, and delivered his farewell discourse April 18, 1830, in the Lutheran Church of Stone Arabia.



The Franckean Evangelic Lutheran Synod was orgabized in May, 1837.

"while many damaging rumors were circulated and many cruel prejudices were excited for which there was not the least foundation, there doubtless were some suspicions and fears legitimately suggested by the looseness of sentiment and indiscretion of procedure with which one of the principal actors was justly chargeable. This was JOHN D. LAWYER. Notwithstanding, every ingenuous person, at all familiar with the facts, will incline to the opinion that his connections with the movement, were a misfortune rather than a fault. He left the bar for the pulpit; was licensed and ordained by the New York Ministerium; was pastor of one of the largest churches in the State, and resigned the presidency of the Hartwick Synod to become a member of the new Synod. Mr. Lawyer was known to have his peculiarities; but up to this time, both as regarded his soundness ~~of faith~~ in the faith and his reliability as a minister of the Gospel, he was entirely above suspicion. Indeed, he had been so prominently connected with and so zealously devoted to every good work, that he really found a warm place in Mr. Wieting's heart.....  
~~Subsequently~~  
 Subsequent developments, however, proved how little he was to be trusted. The exciting and distracting state of things then existing, was exactly calculated to bring to "light the hidden' weaknesses and deficiencies of Mr. Lawyer's character. He utlimately ran into almost every variety of theological error, and his habits of life soom became as irregular as was the action of his mind.



Children

1. Weltha

b. Dec. 7, 1823 d. July 7, 182



Pastor of Geisenberg Church Feb. 4, 1821 to Mar. 28, 1829.

He was licensed by the New York Ministerium in 1826; ordained in 1827. On Feb. 7, 1827, the Rev. John D. Lawyer notified the Rev. Augustus Wackerhagen, the President of the Ministerium that he had accepted a call from the united Congregations of Stone Arabia, Palatine and Minden. He removed to Stone Arabia and took charge of the Congregation on March 1, 1827. An extract from the Lutheran Magazine, Vol. 1, p. 103, published in June, 1827, is quoted as it mentions some matters relating to the Minden church:

The Rev. John D. Lawyer, who was licensed as a candidate at the last meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Stone-Arabia, Minden and Palatine<sup>Montgomery</sup> Co. He commenced his ministerial duties in these Congregations the first day of March last.....The churches in Minden and Palatine were left destitute of a Pastor for several years....that of Stone Arabia became vacant at the last meeting of our Synod, on September, 1826. in

The Rev. John D. Lawyer located himself these Congregations under circumstances of considerable difficulty. In Minden an Imposter, whose name was published in the Proceedings of our Conference and Synod, had created serious disturbances among the people.....In a private letter which the resident Editor, Rev. George A. Lintner, lately received from the Rev. Mr. Lawyer, he expressed himself in the following language 'With the Minden Congregations you are not unacquainted. I have generally a full house and attentive auditors. I think the time is not far distant when this Congregation will be completely united. I preached there a week ago yesterday, and was to have preached there to-day; but on account of a severe storm this morning, bad roads and high water, obliging me to go round by way of Canajoharie, was prevented from going.'

During the summer of 1827, Mr. Lawyer preached at Stone Arabia Danube Church. He was installed at Stone Arabia on January 1, 1828; the Rev. George A. Kintner preached the sermon on that occasion, which has been published. Mr. Lawyer remained as Pastor at Stone Arabia until he received a call from the Zion Church at East Sand Lake, Rensselaer Co. The call was dated March 1, 1830, and he was entered upon his pastoral duties there on May 1st, according to his statement in the West Sand Lake Lutheran record. His entries in the record extend from Feb. 28, 1839 to Aug. 18, 1837. Mr. Lawyer served the Zion Congregation with marked ability and eminence until the close of the year 1836. He joined the Hartwick Synod in 1830, in 1832 he was Secretary; in 1839 its President. In 1837, four members of the Hartwick Synod withdrew from that Body and organized the Franckean



Synod; they were Philip Wieting, the son of John C. Wieting, John D. Lawyer, William Ottman and L. Swackhamer. The Augsburg Confession, and the Lutheran Church in the State of New York. The Zion Church remained steadfast to the Hartwick Synod, and Lawyer, deposed by the Hartwick Synod and turned out of the church, set about organizing a new church in West Sand Lake, in union with the Franckean Synod. Some time during the year 1838, Lawyer left West Sand Lake. He was not able to remain long in the Franckean Synod, even though he assisted in drawing up its Confession of Faith to suit his own requirements. He was in after years deposed by this body for heresy.

The date of his death has not been ascertained.

Records of the Lutheran St. Paul's Church  
in the Town of Minden p. xxiv  
Transcribed by the N. Y. Gen. & Biog. Society  
Edited by Royden Woodward Vosburgh  
New York City 1914



1814 JOHN D. LAWYER

Married: On the 21st inst. by Bishop John D. Lawyer, at his residence in Leesville, Schoharie Co., New York, Michael C. Lagrange and Lavina Maria, eldest daughter of Bishop Lawyer.--Albany Argus, Jan. 28, 1846



1814      JOHN D. LAWYER

DIED:-In Norwich, Chenango County, on the 15th inst, after a severe illness, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Lawyer, wife of Rev. John D. Lawyer (formerly of Schoharie), aged 54 years.

Schoharie Republican  
May 23, 1855.



The Rev. John D. Lawyer was called by the West Sandlake congregation in 1830. He was a man of considerable ability and of excellent address. He entered upon his labors with earnestness and zeal. Under his ministry a great change for the better was effected in the congregation. In fact it became one of the leading congregations in the county. During his connection with Sandlake, Rev. Lawyer organized the Lutheran congregation at Poestenkill.

Mr. Lawyer continued to serve West Sandlake congregation with acceptance and no small measure of usefulness until 1836, when the division in the Hartwick Synod occurred, resulting in the organization of the Franckean Synod. Mr. Lawyer was one of the leading spirits in this movement, which resulted so disastrously to the Lutheran Church in the State of New York. This rupture was followed by a division of the Lutheran congregation at Sandlake, and the organization of another congregation and the building of another church. As a matter of course, more or less antagonism grew up between these rival congregations, and the breach between them has not been fully healed to this day.

Memorial Volume  
Semi-Centennial Anniversary  
Hartwick Lutheran Synod  
P. A. Strobel  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
1881.

p. 274



John Depyster Lawyer 1814  
A/B



John Depyster Lawyer <sup>1814</sup> A.B.